

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus in a communication system comprising:
 - a receiver to receive a plurality of data units of a data packet, the receiver being configured to determine whether a preamble in a first data unit of the packet matches a preamble assigned to the apparatus;
 - a transmitter operative to transmit ACK/NAK (acknowledgement/negative acknowledgement) information on an ACK/NAK channel for every received data unit, the transmitter comprising:
 - a multiplier to cover the ACK/NAK information with a code to define the ACK/NAK channel;
 - a spreader operative to spread the covered ACK/NAK information; and
 - a channel gate for gating said ACK/NAK channel based on whether ~~a companion~~ the receiver has detected a matching preamble in [[a]] the first data unit received by said receiver, the channel gate being configured to prevent transmission of the ACK/NAK channel for all data units of the packet when the receiver determines the preamble in the first data unit does not match the preamble assigned to the apparatus.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said transmitter further includes:
 - a BPSK modulator for modulating said ACK/NAK information;
 - [[a]] wherein the code used by the multiplier [[for]] is a Walsh covering ~~a result of said BPSK modulator~~ to produce Walsh covered ACK/NAK information for transmission on said ACK/NAK channel.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
a summer for summing said ACK/NAK channel and a data rate control/pilot channel.
6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ACK/NAK channel ~~is employed for~~ has a duration of a portion of half a time slot .
7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein slot timing of said ACK/NAK channel is ~~skewed~~ offset by a portion of a time slot ~~time~~ from a slot timing used in said communication system.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ACK/NAK channel is transmitted by a portion of a slot time in advance of a slot timing used in said communication system.
9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5 ~~further comprising; wherein~~
~~a reverse channel~~ the spreader is operative to spread a result of said summer for transmission from said transmitter.
10. (Currently amended) A method in a communication system comprising:
receiving a plurality of data units of a data packet;
determining whether a preamble in a first data unit of the packet matches a preamble assigned to a mobile station;
transmitting ACK/NAK (acknowledgement/negative acknowledgement) information on an ACK/NAK channel for every received data unit;
covering the ACK/NAK information with a code to define the ACK/NAK channel;
spread the covered ACK/NAK information; and
gating said ACK/NAK channel based on whether a matching preamble is detected in [a]
the first received data unit, said gating preventing transmission of the ACK/NAK channel for all data units of the packet when the preamble in the first data unit does not match the preamble assigned to the mobile station.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein transmission of said ACK/NAK information on said ACK/NAK channel ~~is employed for~~ has a duration of ~~a portion of~~ half a time slot.

14. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein said ACK/NAK channel slot timing is ~~skewed~~ offset by a portion of a time slot ~~time~~ from a slot timing used in said communication system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said ACK/NAK channel is transmitted by a portion of a slot time in advance of a slot timing used in said communication system.

16. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
modulating said ACK/NAK information according to a BPSK modulation scheme;
~~multiplying, for~~ wherein the code is a Walsh covering, ~~a result of said modulating with a~~
~~Walsh code~~ to produce Walsh covered ACK/NAK information.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
summing said ACK/NAK channel and a data rate control/pilot channel.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:
spreading a result of said summing for transmission.

19. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ACK/NAK information comprises a single bit.

20. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the spreader spreads the covered ACK/NAK information with PN (pseudo-random noise) sequences.